

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

August 2, 1983

Mr. William Ruckelshaus
Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Waterside Mall
401 M Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20460

Dear Administrator Ruckelshaus:

We wish to make you aware of our continuing interest in the comprehensive cleanup of the New Bedford PCB problem. Yesterday's announcement of \$3.4 million to begin remedial investigative work is indeed good news for area residents and workers who are justifiably concerned over potential public health, environmental and economic impacts associated with the contamination.

However, we also wish to point out the necessity of dealing with the New Bedford issue in components. Due to the complexities involved in the cleanup of this particular Superfund site, we believe that the EPA must give serious consideration to designating Sullivan's Ledge as a unique and separate environmental concern, distinct from the problems associated with harbor contamination. Such a measure was undertaken in the City of Woburn, Massachusetts, and has resulted in additional resources being devoted to the hazardous waste cleanup effort in that community. We believe that the same conditions hold true in New Bedford -- that two Superfund sites, the harbor and Sullivan's Ledge, should be on the National Priority List.

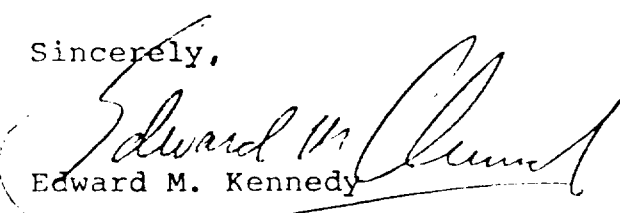
An additional rationale for including Sullivan's Ledge on the Priority List relates to the potential presence of other serious toxins at the site, which will necessitate a broader remedial investigation by EPA.

We urge you to act favorably on the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' request to prioritize Sullivan's Ledge, and trust that this action will result in a more expeditious investigation and cleanup of the environmental problems which exist at both sites in the City of New Bedford.

With best wishes,


Gerry E. Studds

Sincerely,


Edward M. Kennedy

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